

Autumn Term in Reception

Welcome to Reception! All of the children are settling so well into Clarendon and are making new friends, learning new routines and having lots of fun! We are very impressed with how well they are doing. Later in the term, you will be invited to a Parent Consultation to discuss their first few weeks in school. We will also be able to discuss your child's progress and next steps in learning so that you can support this at home. In the meantime, here is some information which we hope you find useful.

This half term our topic is '**How have I changed?**' We will be exploring how we change as we grow and how to face new challenges with a positive attitude. We will be learning the rules and routines of our school and will learn how to work together purposefully and happily as a class as well as having lots of fun completing various topic related activities. Next half term our topic is '**What is my body telling me?**' We will also begin our synthetic phonics programme which helps your child learn the letter names and sounds.

Literacy

We will start to teach Phase 2 in phonics (most of the single letter sounds), alongside Phase 1 as the children still need to develop their listening skills. We teach them how to recognise and blend the letter sounds for reading, and how to segment them and form the letters for writing.

We use Cued Articulation and Success for All phonic and reading programmes.

We also teach the children technical words like phoneme, (the letter sound) and grapheme, (the written letter sound). We will be on hand to support you on how to support your child with learning phonics.

We also encourage many fine motor activities, such as finger gym, threading and painting so that fingers can gain control to write.

Useful Websites/links

<http://www.soundsforliteracy.co.uk/cued-articulation.html>

How can you help?

- Doing fine motor activities, such as using playdough, painting, threading, drawing, playing with buttons, etc.
- Reading with your child for about 10 minutes each day, and talking about the book/story.
- Help your child to practise writing the letters according to the Clarendon handwriting scheme, starting and finishing in the correct places.
- Encouraging them to do simple subitising, addition and subtraction in fun and practical situations using real objects.
- Using and recognising numbers up to 10.
- Talking about simple mathematical problems.

Home learning

This includes reading their reading books, word bags, a maths, literacy or topic based activity.

Maths

- Subitising, counting, recognising, writing and ordering numbers to 10
- problem solving
- sorting and comparing
- Making repeating patterns.
- learning simple 2D and 3D shape names
- using positional language (on, in, etc.)

Useful Websites/links

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/b08bzfnh/numberblocks>

Physical Development

- Moving in a range of ways, safely negotiating space.
- Running skilfully and negotiating space successfully, adjusting speed or direction to avoid obstacles.
- Drawing lines and circles using gross motor movements
- Using one-handed tools and equipment.
- Holding a pencil between the thumb and first two fingers, and developing good control.
- Copying letters.

Please encourage your child to use a knife and fork independently at home.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Making friends and asking people to play with you, linked to our school value- friendship.

Turn taking and sharing.

Being good at tidying up and looking after our resources and classroom.

Selecting and using resources with some help.

Asking for help from an adult when needed.

Communication and Language

- Listening to others one to one or in small groups.
- Listening to stories with increasing attention and recall.
- Joining in with repeated refrains and anticipates key events and phrases in rhymes and stories.
- Following directions and responding to instructions.
- Understanding 'why' and 'how' questions.
- Understanding prepositions such as 'under', 'on top', 'behind' by carrying out an action or selecting the correct picture.
- Using more complex sentences to link thoughts (e.g. Using 'and' or 'because')
- Using talk to connect ideas, explain what is happening and anticipate what might happen next.

Expressive Art and Design

- Using the painting easel, aprons and drying rack.
- Using the musical instruments.
- Making food.
- Songs relating to our learning such as Harvest, Autumn and other songs such as nursery rhymes.
- Role play mud kitchen, home corner and construction site.

Understanding the World

- Autumn, harvest and the changes
- Joining in with some different customs that occur this term (e.g. harvest, Diwali, Christmas etc.)
- Computing skills – CD player, cameras, tablets, basic skills in the computing suite, online safety.
- Playing and talking about small world resources
- How we grow and change
- How we are each special

Other useful information about Reception

The British Weather

As the British weather is a little unpredictable, please send your child into school with a waterproof coat (all clearly named) if there is any chance that they might need it, as they spend a lot of time learning outside. **All** children need to have a pair of named **wellies**, which are left in school.

Jewellery

Please note that children are not allowed to wear any jewellery to school, except for one earring stud for boys and one pair of studs for girls. These will need to be removed for P.E by the children; therefore, many parents do not put them in on Fridays. If bracelets are worn for religious purposes these need to be covered with sweat bands for PE.

PE- All children are to come into school in their kits every Friday.

Please help us by removing all jewellery, including earrings, on Fridays.

We are very lucky to have great PE coaches, TK and Sam, who lead our weekly PE session.

Please ensure your child has the correct PE kit and are dressed appropriately for the weather. We use the hall as well as the outside areas for PE and the children will be wearing their kit all day so they need to be warm/cool enough.

Trainers need to be Velcro to encourage independence.

Nuts!

It has been tradition at Clarendon to let children bring in sweets or cakes to hand out to the other children on their birthday. Please remember that we are a nut-free school so be mindful of this when bringing anything in. We do have children in school with severe nut allergies and this can be fatal.

Book bags

We are pleased that your children are remembering to bring their purple book bags to school each day. Please check them daily as this is where any letters will be. Letters and books should be the only items in the book bags so that we can store them efficiently. Please do not put **water bottles** in them as they can leak! Book bags are to be named clearly on the outside and have only one keyring.

Fruit and Milk

In the Reception Class children enjoy a snack of fruit and milk, or water. Every child of 4 is entitled to free milk. However, children who have turned 5 will need to pay. If you would like your child to receive milk, (regardless of their age) you need to register for this. Please see the office for details. As part of the Healthy Schools Initiative we are provided with a piece of fruit for each child every day. If you would ever like to send an extra piece of fruit for your child feel free! It is a great way to encourage healthy eating and the children often love to eat more than one piece of fruit for a snack.

Every day your child needs to bring a plastic sipper bottle containing water only to keep in class. No juice.

Home Learning and Reading Records

Home learning will start in Reception when the children are settled and we start our phonics programme. Home learning will be sent home every Friday and needs to be returned every Wednesday.

The learning will always be based on consolidating what we have learnt that week, as well as forming letters, daily reading and word bag activities.

Reading records are used to record daily reading and make comments on progress. These are checked every Monday in Reception.